

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

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FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0871

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E.O. 11652: N/A

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SUBJECT: GVN/PRC DISPUTE OVER PARACEL ISLANDS

FOLLOWING IS OFFICAL TEXT OF GVN FOREGIN MINISTRY DECLARATION READ
BY FM VUONG VAN BAC EVENING OF JANUARY 16. BEGIN TEXT. ON
JANUARY 11TH, 1974, THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF COMMUNIST
CHINA SUDDENLY AND FALSELY CLAIMED THEIR SOVEREIGNTY OVER THE
REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM'S ARCHIPELAGOS OF PARACELS AND SPRATLEY.
IMMEDIATELY ON THE FOLLOWING DAY, THE SPOKESMAN OF THE FOREIGN
MINISTRY OF THE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM REJECTED THIS UNFOUNDED
CLAIM.

2. DESPITE OF THIS, IN THE LAST FEW DAYS, THE COMMUNIST CHINESE
AUTHORITIES NOT ONLY REFUSED TO WITHDRAW THEIR UNREASONABLE
CLAIM, BUT EVEN OPENLY VIOLATED THE TERRITORIAL SOVEREIGNTY
OF THE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM BY SENDING THEIR NATIONALS AND
BOATS INTO THE TERRITORIAL WATERS SURROUNDING THE ISLANDS OF CAM
TUYEN (ROBERT), QUANG HOA (DUNCAN) AND DUY MONG (DRUMMOND) WHICH
ARE PARTS OF THE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM'S PARACELS ARCHIPELAGO.
THESE PEOPLE EVEN LANDED ON THE ABOVE ISLANDS, SET UP HUTS AND
DISPLAYED COMMUNIST CHINESE FLAGS, IN BLATANT VIOLATION OF THE
SOVEREIGNTY AND TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY OF THE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM.
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3. THE GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE OF THE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM ARE INDIGNANT IN THE FACE OF THESE GROSS VIOLATIONS WHICH THEY ARE DETERMINED NOT TO TOLERATE.

4. THE FACT THAT THE PARACELS AND SPRATLEY ARCHIPELAGOS ARE INDIVISIBLE PARTS OF THE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM'S TERRITORY IS EVIDENT AND UNDENIABLE AND IS BASED ON GEOGRAPHICAL AND HISTORICAL GROUNDS AS WELL AS ON INTERNATIONAL LAW.

5. INDEED, FROM THE GEOGRAPHICAL POINT OF VIEW, THE PARACELS AND SPRATLEY ARCHIPELAGOS ARE MUCH CLOSER TO THE SHORES OF THE CENTRAL PART OF THE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM THAN TO THE SHORES OF THE CHINESE HAINAM ISLAND.

6. FROM THE HISTORICAL POINT OF VIEW, VIETNAM WAS THE FIRST COUNTRY TO DISCOVER AND DEVELOP THE PARACELS ARCHIPELAGO. ACCORDING TO THE HISTORICAL RECORDS KNOWN AS DAI NAM NHAT THONG CHI, EMPEROR GIA LING 1802 ESTABLISHED THE HOANG SA COMPANY TO CONTROL AND EXPLOIT THAT GROUP OF ISLANDS. IN 1834 UNDER EMPEROR MINH MANG, THE HOANG SA ISLANDS WERE RECORDED FOR THE FIRST TIME OVER IN MASP PUBLISHED BY THE COURT OF HUE, IN THE GEOGRAPHIC MONOGRAPHY KNOWN AS HOANG VIET DIA DU.

7. DURING THE FRENCH COLONIAL PERIOD, THE GOVERNOR GENERAL OF INDOCHINA BY MEANS OF DECREE NO 156/SC OF JUNE 15, 1932, ESTABLISHED THE HOANG SA AS AN ADMINISTRATIVE UNIT WITHIN THE PROVINCE OF THUA THIEN. THIS WAS EVENTUALLY CONFIRMED BY EMPEROR BAO DAI'S ORDINANCE NO 10 OF MARCH 30, 1938.

8. ON MAY 5, 1939, THE GOVERNOR GENERAL OF INDOCHINA AGAIN DELINEATED THE ADMINISTRATIVE LIMITS OF THE HOANG SA GROUP, UNDER WHAT WAS KNOWN AS THE "DELEGATION ADMINISTRATIVE DU CROISSANT ET DEPENDANCES", AND OF THE TRUONG SA GROUP, UNDER WHAT WAS KNOWN AS THE "DELEGATION ADMINISTRATIVE DE L'AMPHITRITE ET DEPENDANCES".

9. UNDER VIETNAM'S FIRST REPUBLIC, THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC ON JULY 13, 1961 ISSUED DECREE NO 174-NK MAKING THE HOANG SA ARCHIPELAGO A PART OF THE PROVINCE OF QUANG NAM, INSTEAD OF THUA THIEN PROVINCE, AND ESTABLISHING THE VILLAGE OF DINH HAI AS PART OF THE DISTRICT OF HOA VANG.

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10. UNDER VIETNAM'S SECOND REPUBLIC, THE VILLAGE OF DINH HAI WAS MERGED WITH THE VILLAGE OF HOA LONG, OF THE SAME DISTRICT OF HOA VANG (PROVINCE OF QUANG NAM), BY VIRTUE OF DECREE NO 079-BNV/HC OF OCTOBER 21, 1969 BY THE PRIME MINISTER.

11. ALL THOSE ACTS TO ASSERT AND EXERCISE VIETNAMESE SOVEREIGNTY OVER THOSE ISLANDS WERE NOT CHALLENGED BY ANY

COUNTRY, INCLUDING COMMUNIST CHINA.

12. FROM THE POINT OF VIEW OF INTERNATIONAL LAW, THE HEAD OF THE VIETNAMESE DELEGATION TO THE 1951 SAN FRANCISCO PEACE CONFERENCE ON SEPTEMBER 7, 1951 DECLARED THAT VIETNAM RECOVERED HER SOVEREIGNTY OVER THOSE ARCHIPELAGOS, AFTER JAPAN HAD SURRENDERED TERRITORIES IT OCCUPIED BY FORCE OF ARMS DURING THE SECOND WORLD WAR. NONE AMONG THE 51 COUNTRIES PARTICIPATING IN THAT CONFERENCE RAISED ANY OBJECTION TO THIS REAFFIRMATION OF SOVEREIGNTY BY VIETNAM.

13. FROM THE POINT OF VIEW OF REALITES, VIETNAMESE AUTHORITIES HAVE CONSISTENTLY STATIONED TROOPS AND EXERCISED ADMINISTRATIVE CONTROL OVER THOSE ARCHIPELAGOS, AND THE VIETNAMESE NAVY REGULARLY PATROLS AND SUPERVISES NAVIGATIONAL SECURITY IN THE AREA.

4. IN VIEW OF ALL THE PRECISE FACTS LISTED ABOVE, THE SUDDEN CHALLENGE BY COMMUNIST CHINA OF THE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM'S SOVEREIGNTY OVER THE PARACELS ARCHIPELAGO AND ITS VIOLATION OF THE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM'S SOVEREIGNTY ARE UNACCEPTABLE. THEY CONSTITUTE A THREAT TO THE PEACE AND SECURITY OF THIS REGION.

15. THE GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE OF THE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM ARE DETERMINED TO DEFEND THEIR SOVEREIGNTY AND THEIR TERRIORIAL INTEGRITY AND RESERVE THE RIGHT TO TAKE ALL APPROPRIATE MEASURES TO THIS END. END TEXT.

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